

REMARKS

The amendments to claims 53, 55-66, 78-81 and 201 were discussed with Examiner Nichols in a telephonic interview with the undersigned agent and Applicant's attorney David A. Gass on March 25, 2004. These amendments are supported throughout the specification, in particular at page 10, lines 25-28, page 13, lines 19-20 and page 98 (table 6). These amendments do not add new matter to the application. In view of the above, each of these presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance.

New claims 202-228 are identical to claims 1-27 in recently issued U.S. Patent No. 6,713,276. The protease described in the present application as huAsp1 had been called "BACE2" in literature published after the filing of this application. New claims 229-233 are supported at page 23, line 21 through page 24, line 2, page 25, lines 9-18, page 25, line 27 through page 26, line 8 and pages 98 and 99.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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